

Message Text

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ORIGIN HEW-06

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DRAFTED BY DHEW/ASH/OIH:RDFISCHER:PH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OSCI, RU

SUBJECT: DHEW/OIH - EXPANSION OF HEALTH COOPERATION IN ROMANIA

1. AS DISCUSSED DURING SCIATT MEETING IN WASHINGTON, OIH HAS SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY TRAVELERS TO EUROPE OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO EXPANSION OF HEALTH COOPERATION IN ROMANIA. OIH WOULD PROPOSE FOLLOWING FOR EMBASSY AND MOH CONSIDERATION.

2. DR. RICHARD THURM, CHIEF, DEPT. MEDICINE, USPHS HOSPITAL, BOSTON HAS BEEN PROJECT OFFICER OF TWO COMPLIMENTARY RESEARCH PROJECTS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND ISRAEL ON EMPIDEMIOLOGY OF HYPERTENSION IN VARIOUS ETHNIC GROUPS. MUCH FUNDING WAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF METHODOLOGY WHICH IS NOW COMPLETE. DR. THURM IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN YUGOSLAVIA 8/1-8/15 AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH ROMANIANS TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN EXPANDING INVESTIGATION TO ETHNIC GROUPS IN THAT COUNTRY.

3. NO FUNDING IS ENVISIONED AT THIS TIME. TECHNICAL CONSULTATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO UNIFY PROTOCOLS AND SHARE DATA.

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PROJECT WOULD BE VERY INEXPENSIVE INVOLVING ONLY HOME BLOOD

PRESSURE MONITORING. THE POOLING OF DATA WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ALL NATIONAL GROUPS IN POSSIBLE CLUES TO ETIOLOGY OF HYPERTENSION.

4. IF ADVISABLE, WOULD APPRECIATE SCIATT INQUIRE OF MOH INTEREST. DR. THURM WOULD SUGGEST ARRIVE ROMANIA 8/17 FOR MEETING 8/18. CAN STAY COUPLE OF DAYS IF SEEN AS FRUITFUL. ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON AGREEMENT OF YUGOSLAVIAN AND ISRAEL COLLABORATORS BUT NO PROBLEMS PRESENTLY ANTICIPATED. DR. THURM'S TRAVEL TO/ FROM ROMANIA WILL BE SELF-FINANCED WITH MOH RESPONSIBLE FOR IN-COUNTRY LODGING AND PER DIEM.

5. REQUEST RESPONSE ASAP ATTENTION FISCHER/OIH SO SCHEDULE MAY BE CONFIRMED. KISSINGER

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